THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : Delhi Administration have intimated that during last six months (Sept., 89 to February, 90) 70173 vehicles were inspected by the Directorate of Transportation and out of these, 19071 were found unroadworthy.

Statehood to Pondicherry

1923. SHRI V. NARAYANA-SAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to grant state hood to the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the political parties in the State have demanded statehood and the demand has the support of the people of that State; and

(c) if so, by when the decision for grant of statehood to Pondicherry is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry has passed Resolution demanding statehood for the Union Territory. The Government of India have noted the Resolution.

U.P. Government on construction near Babri Masjid

1924. SHRI V. NARAYANA-SAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.P. Government has clearly stated that the construction near Babri Masjid is illegal and no permission has been given by the Development Authority to Vishwa Hindu Parishad for construction of Ram Janma Bhoomi temple;

(b) whether as per the Prime Minister's statement a Committee has been set up to go into the dispute relating to the Babri Masjid Ram Janam Bhoomi; and

(c) what action Government have taken in regard to the continued statement by Vishwa Hindu Parishad for construction of Ram Janma Bhoomi temple in the disputed area ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) No such report has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Recently, the Central Government constituted a Committee comprising Prof. Madhu Dan-davate, Union Finance Minister, Shri George Fernandes, Union Railway Minister, and Shri Mukhtar Anis, Health Minister of Government of Uttar Pradesh to hold consultations with the various groups to find an amicable solution to the dispute. It is the considered view of the Government that this issue can be resolved in a spirit of mutual accommodation by building a national consensus which is essential for preserving the emotional unity of the country.

Media in Kashmir Valley

1925. SHRI V. NARAYANA-SAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that media in the Kashmir Valley is in bad shape and the 32 vernacular newspapers published from Kashmir Valley suspended their publication because of the repressive measures adopted by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the attempt of curbing the free press in the Kashmir Valley ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) The State Government has informed that no repressive measures of any kind have been adopted by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in respect of the local newspapers published from the Kashmir Valley Curfew passes demanded by the newspapers were also given to them. Newspapers had some difficulty in arranging publication and distribution of newspapers during curfew days and as such they did not publish the newspapers. After long relaxation in curfew hours has been introduced, the local newspapers have been getting published almost regularly.

(b) Does not arise.

एटा में टेलीफोन केन्द्र की स्थापना

9126. श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एटा टेलीफोन केन्द्र में लगा हुआ उपकरण वह उपकरण है जिसे मोदीनगर टेलीफोन केन्द्र ने रद्द कर दिया था ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि एटा टेलीफोन केन्द्र के लिए निर्धारित नये उपकरण को मोदीनगर टेलीफोन केन्द्र में लगा दिया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इन उपकरणों की अदला-बदली कब की गयी थी ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री, साथ में संचार मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री के०पी० उन्नीकृष्णन) : (क) मोदी नगर से वापस लेकर उपस्कर का इस्तेमाल एटा में किया गया। यह सत्य नहीं है कि उपस्कर बेकार था।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) एटा के लिए प्राप्त एक्सचेंज उपस्कर का मोदी नगर के चालू एक्सचेंज को, नए एक्सचेंज भवन में शिफ्टिंग के लिए इस्तेमाल किया गया और वहां से निकाले गए उपस्कर को वर्ष 1974 में एटा में संस्थापित किया गया।

Standard time in Kashmir Valley

1927. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people in the Kashmir Valley have been asked by subversives to set their watches and clocks according to Pakistani Standard time and to declare Friday as a weekly holiday in place of Sunday; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) According to State Government, this is such a propaganda started by the militants and subversives, though no definite case of any Government employee or responsible civilian who might have set his watch according to Pakistan time has come to notice. Similarly, no business or commercial organisation has so far adopted Friday in place of Sunday as the weekly holiday.

(b) The Government would deal with any contingency and ensure that the national policy is followed.